Claims

[c1] A pop bead construction, comprising:

a spherical body formed of an opaque material;

an elongate, flexible neck formed integrally with said spherical body, said elongate, flexible neck extending radially from said spherical body;

a ball formed integrally on a distal free end of said elongate, flexible neck;

a socket formed in said spherical body;

said socket including a cavity and an opening into said cavity, said opening formed on a surface of said spherical body in diametrically opposed relation to said elongate flexible neck;

said opening having an initial breadth slightly less than a breadth of said ball;

said spherical body being formed of a flexible and resilient material so that said opening momentarily enlarges to admit said ball into said cavity when said ball is pressed thereinto and said opening returning to said initial breadth to capture said ball in said cavity after said ball has passed through said opening;

said elongate, flexible neck having a predetermined length sufficient to enable said ball formed on said distal end of said elongate, flexible neck to be inserted into said cavity formed in said spherical body from which said elongate, flexible neck extends;

said ball being enclosed within said spherical body and therefore not visible to a viewer of said pop bead construction;

said pop bead forming a jewelry item of generally annular construction when said ball is disposed within said cavity;

said spherical body and said elongate, flexible neck being the only visible parts of said jewelry item when said ball is fully received within said spherical body.

[c2] The pop bead construction of claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of strung beads disposed in engaging relation to said elongate, flexible neck;

each strung bead of said plurality of strung beads having a diametrically-extending throughbore formed therein, each of said throughbores having a diameter greater than a diameter of said ball so that said strung beads are positionable onto said elongate, flexible neck and each of said throughbores

having a diameter less than a diameter of said spherical body so that said strung beads are captured between opposite sides of said spherical body when said ball is disposed within said cavity.

[c3]

A pop bead construction for forming an annular jewelry item, comprising:
a first spherical body;
a first truncate neck formed on said first spherical body, said first truncate neck extending radially from said first spherical body;
a first ball formed on a distal free end of said first truncate neck;
a first socket formed in said first spherical body;
said first socket including a first cavity and a first opening formed into said first cavity, said first opening formed on a surface of said first spherical body in diametrically opposed relation to said first truncate neck;
said first opening having an initial breadth slightly less than a breadth of said first ball;
said first truncate neck having a length insufficient to enable said first ball to be inserted into said first cavity;
said first truncate neck having a length sufficient to receive a plurality of strung beads thereon;
a second spherical body;
a second truncate neck formed on said second spherical body, said second truncate neck extending radially from said second spherical body;
a second ball formed on a distal free end of said second truncate neck;
a second socket formed in said second spherical body;
said second socket formed in said second spherical body including a second cavity and a second opening formed in said cavity, said second opening formed on a surface of said second spherical body in diametrically opposed relation to said second truncate neck;
said second opening having an initial breadth slightly less than a breadth of said second ball;
said second truncate neck having a length insufficient to enable said second ball to be inserted into said second cavity;
said second truncate neck having a length sufficient to receive a plurality of

strung beads thereon;

said first spherical body being formed of a flexible and resilient material so that said first opening momentarily enlarges to admit said second ball of said second spherical body into said first cavity of said first spherical body when said second ball is pressed thereinto and said first opening returning to said initial breadth to capture said second ball in said first cavity after said second ball has passed through said first opening;

said second spherical body being formed of a flexible and resilient material so that said second opening momentarily enlarges to admit a third ball of a third spherical body into said second cavity of said second spherical body when said third ball is pressed thereinto and said second opening returning to said initial breadth to capture said third ball in said second cavity after said third ball has passed through said second opening;

an annular jewelry item being formed when a plurality of said pop beads are chained together.

[c4] A barrette in combination with a pop bead, comprising;

an opening formed in said barrette at a hinged part thereof, said opening having an initial breadth slightly smaller than a ball formed on a distal free end of a neck that extends radially from a spherical body of said pop bead, said barrette being formed of a flexible and resilient material so that said opening is adapted to expand momentarily when said ball passes therethrough and is adapted to return to said initial breadth after said ball has passed therethrough so that said ball is captured;

said opening being formed in said barrette at said hinged part so that said pop bead depends from said hinged part.

[c5] A barrette in combination with a first pop bead, comprising;

an elongate, flexible neck mounted to said barette at a hinged part thereof, a ball formed on a distal free end of said elongate, flexible neck, said ball adapted for snap fit engagement with a socket formed in a spherical body of said first pop bead;

said elongate, flexible neck being formed in said barrette at said hinged part so that said first pop bead depends from said hinged part.

[c6] An eyeglass holder in combination with a pop bead, comprising;
an opening formed in said eyeglass holder at a return bend part thereof, said opening having an initial breadth slightly smaller than a ball formed on a distal free end of a neck that extends radially from a spherical body of said pop bead, said eyeglass holder being formed of a flexible and resilient material so that said opening is adapted to expand momentarily when said ball passes therethrough and is adapted to return to said initial breadth after said ball has passed therethrough so that said ball is captured;
said opening being formed in said eyeglass holder at said return bend part so that said pop bead depends from said return bend part.

[c7] An eyeglass holder in combination with a first pop bead, comprising;
an elongate, flexible neck mounted to said eyeglass holder at a return bend part thereof, a ball formed on a distal free end of said elongate, flexible neck, said ball adapted for snap fit engagement with a socket formed in a spherical body of said first pop bead;
said elongate, flexible neck being formed in said eyeglass holder at said return bend part so that said first pop bead depends from said return bend part.

[c8] A lanyard hook in combination with a pop bead, comprising;
an opening formed in said lanyard hook at a return bend part thereof, said opening having an initial breadth slightly smaller than a ball formed on a distal free end of a neck that extends radially from a spherical body of said pop bead, said lanyard hook being formed of a flexible and resilient material so that said opening is adapted to expand momentarily when said ball passes therethrough and is adapted to return to said initial breadth after said ball has passed therethrough so that said ball is captured;
said opening being formed in said lanyard hook at said return bend part so that said pop bead depends from said return bend part.

[c9]

A lanyard hook in combination with a first pop bead, comprising;
an elongate, flexible neck mounted to said lanyard hook at a return bend part thereof, a ball formed on a distal free end of said elongate, flexible neck, said ball adapted for snap fit engagement with a socket formed in a spherical body

of said first pop bead;

said elongate, flexible neck being formed in said lanyard hook at said return bend part so that said first pop bead depends from said return bend part.

[c10]

A pop bead construction in combination with a first and a second base member, comprising:

a first truncate neck extending from a first side of said first base member at an upper end of said first base member;

a ball formed in a distal free end of said first truncate neck;

a second truncate neck extending from a second side of said first base member at an upper end of said first base member;

a first spherical member formed on said second truncate neck at a distal free end thereof;

a first socket formed in said first spherical member;

a third truncate neck extending from a first side of said second base member at an upper end of said second base member;

a ball formed in a distal free end of said third truncate neck;

a fourth truncate neck extending from a second side of said second base member at an upper end of said second base member;

a second spherical member formed on said fourth truncate neck at a distal free end thereof;

a second socket formed in said second spherical member;

said second socket adapted to releasably receive said ball formed in said distal free end of said first truncate neck;

said first and second truncate necks and said first socket being formed in said first base member at said upper end thereof so that said first base member depends from respective innermost ends of said first and second truncate necks;

said third and fourth truncate necks and said second socket being formed in said second base member near said upper end thereof so that said second base member depends from respective innermost ends of said third and fourth truncate necks;

each of said first and second base members formed in the shape of a symbol;

whereby a chain of symbols is formed when said ball formed in said distal free end of said first truncate neck is in engaging relation to said second socket formed in said second spherical member.